

In 1850, four Ursuline Sisters and an English laywoman left their monastery in Boulogne-sur-Mer, France and traveled by ship to the United States, where they established the first Catholic schools in the newly formed Roman Catholic Diocese of Cleveland, Ohio. They had been invited to Cleveland by the Most Reverend Louis Amadeus Rappe, the first bishop of the diocese and former chaplain to this group of Ursulines in Boulogne-sur-Mer.

Within a month of their arrival in Cleveland, the Ursulines opened an academy for 300 pupils. As their congregation grew, they opened more Catholic schools across Greater Cleveland.

In 1871, Mother Mary of the Annunciation Beaumont, the first superior of the Cleveland Ursulines, obtained a charter from the State of Ohio to establish Ohio's first Catholic college for women. The new college was located in the same building as the motherhouse on Cleveland's Euclid Avenue—focused on the liberal arts.

In its first 95 years, Ursuline College had five different locations in the City of Cleveland before opening its current campus in the Cleveland suburb of Pepper Pike, Ohio in 1966. There, it continues to emphasize the leadership role of women in a wide array of professions.

In 1975, the Diocese of Cleveland closed its Saint John College and asked Ursuline to absorb St. John's Division of Nursing. Ursuline's current Breen School of Nursing and Health Professions grew from this strong foundation to become a nationally recognized Center of Excellence, as designated by the National League for Nursing in 2021. Nursing is Ursuline's highest-enrolled field of study, and Ursuline nursing graduates today help staff Cleveland's top hospitals.

In 2000, Ursuline athletes began competing in inter-collegiate sports. The Ursuline Arrows are now a member program of the Great Midwest Athletic Conference at the NCAA Division II level.

Now, 150 years since its founding, Ursuline remains the only women-focused college in the State of Ohio, and one of the few in the U.S. founded and continuously led by women. True to its original vision, Ursuline continues to transform students for service, leadership, and professional excellence. Its thousands of alumnae, in turn, bring compassion and competence to their service to others in professional and community roles including nursing, business, law, teaching, historic preservation, social work, counseling, art therapy, and more.

Together, we look forward to celebrating the next 150 years of this remarkable institution.

107TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. GRACE MENG

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 27, 2022

Ms. MENG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the solemn 107th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. The atrocities began on April 24, 1915 and lasted until 1923. It is our responsibility to recognize the massacre of 1.5 million Armenians 107 years ago.

The Armenian Genocide is an important reminder that crimes against humanity must not

go without recognition and condemnation. By recognizing the Armenian Genocide, we pay tribute to the perseverance and determination of those who survived. We also honor the Americans of Armenian descent who have helped strengthen our country.

As a Member of the Armenia Caucus, I have consistently supported resolutions sponsored by my colleagues in the Caucus in recognition of the Armenian Genocide, which state that it is the policy of the United States to commemorate the Armenian Genocide through official recognition and remembrance and reject efforts to enlist, engage, or otherwise associate the United States Government with denial of the Armenian Genocide or any other genocide. We need to remember the past and correct ongoing tragedies in front of us.

As part of those remembrance efforts, I am also an original cosponsor of the Armenian Genocide Education Act, H.R. 7555, which would direct the Library of Congress to carry out Armenian Genocide education programs, including the dissemination of materials to state and local education leaders encouraging the adoption of Armenian Genocide curricula in secondary and post-secondary education.

I stand with my constituents of Armenian descent in commemorating the anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. With that, Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in commemoration.

SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTERS IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2022

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2022

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6445—the Small Business Development Centers Improvement Act of 2022, which reauthorizes the Small Business Development Center Program through FY2025 and amends the Small Business Act to require an annual report on entrepreneurial development programs.

H.R. 6445 will authorize the appropriation of \$175 million for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2025 for the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) program. The program awards grants to centers that counsel and train current and prospective small-business owners.

The Small Business Development Centers Improvement Act would help strengthen the SBDC network and allow the center to do more to build awareness of their programs and services.

More specifically, H.R. 6445 will prohibit entities other than institutions of higher education from receiving new grants under the program; allow centers to collect fees related to private partnerships or co-sponsorships; authorize centers to market their services directly to small businesses; and modify or establish provisions related to program funding, operations, data collection, and reporting.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau's Business Dynamics Statistics, about 97 percent of businesses in the greater Houston area are considered small businesses.

Companies that employ less than 500 people collectively employ 44 percent of Houston's workforce, or 1.2 million people.

Eighty-two percent of businesses operating in the Houston area have fewer than 20 employees. Together, these businesses employ just under 400,000 workers, or about 14 percent of the regional workforce.

According to a study done by Self Financial, a personal finance service, there are nearly 170,000 minority-owned startups in the U.S., employing over 700,000 people and generating close to \$100 billion in annual revenue.

The study states that Houston ranks fifth in the Nation for minority entrepreneurship.

Nearly 35 percent of Houston-area small businesses employing 50 or fewer people are minority-owned.

And based on demographic trends, these numbers are likely to grow as the population continues to diversify on racial and ethnic lines.

As a senior Member of the House Committees on Judiciary, Homeland Security, and Budget, I have and continue to advocate and fight for funding for the self-employed, independent contractors, sole proprietors, and small businesses.

In the early stages of the pandemic, I introduced H.R. 6292, the COVID-19 Small Business Recovery Grants Act, to help struggling farmers, ranchers, and small businesses that suffered an economic loss due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Specifically, this legislation would have established a \$1 billion fund to provide direct relief to eligible parties who were experiencing financial losses due to the coronavirus.

The bill supported the American people by preserving the economic viability of small businesses that have been devastated by the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Entrepreneurship is the backbone of American commerce, especially small businesses that are significant drivers of economic growth and job creation in the U.S.

Small businesses provide opportunities for entrepreneurs, jobs for neighbors and gathering places for communities. They're rooted in the landscape where they grow, and foster local economies, keeping money close to home.

Small Business Development Centers are an essential resource for small business owners, especially those who have been historically disadvantaged. SBDC's provide them with business advising, access to training, tools, and resources to help small businesses start, grow, expand, and succeed.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 6445 the Small Business Development Centers Improvement Act because we must support our country's small businesses to ensure that our economy is prosperous.

IN HONOR OF THE 2021-2022 AAAA STATE CHAMPIONS: THE SPENCER GREENWAVE BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 27, 2022

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Georgia High